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Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Letter dated 3 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Declaration of the International Parliamentary Conference commemorating the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, dated 7 April 2010 at St. Petersburg (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 126.

(Signed) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the International Parliamentary Conference commemorating the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945

(St. Petersburg, 7 April 2010)

The victory in the Great Patriotic War, which was achieved through the efforts of all peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was decisive in defeating fascism and bringing the Second World War to an end.

Victory Day will remain forever in the memories of our peoples as a symbol of that immense achievement and of our deepest sorrow for those who died at the front, those who were tortured to death or executed as prisoners of the fascists and those who perished on the home front during the war. This memory serves as a foundation on which to strengthen moral and humanitarian ideals.

The participants in the International Parliamentary Conference to commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), drawing upon international instruments adopted on the outcome of the Second World War:

1. Declare their admiration for the selfless bravery, dedication and steadfastness of the sons and daughters of the peoples of the Soviet Union, who won victory through the great exploit of liberating Europe and other regions of the world from fascist enslavement. Had it not been for the tens of millions of lives sacrificed by the peoples of the Soviet Union, the victory over fascism would have been impossible;

2. Reaffirm that the heroism of our peoples was decisive in giving impetus to the resistance movement in the countries of Europe, opening a second front, and gathering strength to overcome fascism and Japanese militarism, and recognize the contribution to the victory made by the States of the anti-Hitler coalition;

3. Call upon the parliaments and peoples of CIS member States to make every effort to preserve the memory of this sacred war and this Great Victory for all time;

Express their deep conviction that the memory of the colossal loss of life in the Second World War makes it imperative for the world community to recognize that preserving peace is an absolute priority;

4. Reiterate the illegality of attempts to reassess the outcome of the Second World War; and strongly condemn the persecution of veterans of the Great Patriotic War in a number of countries and the growing attempts to glorify fascism and its collaborators;

Call upon the Interparliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Security and Defence Assembly, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty

Organization, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and other international parliamentary organizations to engage in active parliamentary diplomacy in order to counteract attempts to reassess the outcome of the Second World War and rehabilitate fascism at the State level, and to prevent the use of parliamentary podiums by those who would justify and praise the Nazis and their collaborators;

Draw particular attention to the fact that the development of double standards in assessing the outcome of the Second World War has a negative impact on inter-State relations by undermining the unity of the world community in the face of present-day global challenges and threats and by fomenting dangerous conflicts between civilizations;

Welcome the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session of a special resolution introduced by the Russian Federation on the inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which expresses concern about the increase in xenophobia and intolerance in the modern world and about attempts to rehabilitate fascist ideology and its manifestations;

5. Call upon the parliaments and Governments of CIS member States to continue their efforts to provide comprehensive social and legal assistance to veterans of the Great Patriotic War, partisans and those who worked on the home front during the war years, tend to their burial places, maintain the search for the missing and immortalize their memory;

Condemn acts of vandalism against and the destruction of memorials to those who fought in the Great Patriotic War, considering these acts a demonstration of sacrilegious disrespect for the heroic exploits of all those who, in mortal combat with the enemy, defended their native land and saved Europe from fascist enslavement, and an attempt to erase from memory the hundreds of thousands of people who laid down their lives selflessly fighting shoulder to shoulder on the front lines;

6. Deem it necessary to take measures to coordinate public information activities among CIS member States aimed at countering the ideology and practice of contemporary extremism, the rise of ultranationalistic organizations, manifestations of neo-Nazism and the justification and glorification of the Nazis and their collaborators as well as to promote an atmosphere of non-tolerance of such phenomena in post-Soviet nations and in international forums;

Support the adoption by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States of a decision to dedicate one day, on the eve of 9 May 2010, to the commemoration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 in all educational institutions of CIS member States, and to do so annually each May in commemoration of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945;

7. Welcome the efforts of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly to establish and update a model legal framework for the Commonwealth that properly responds to contemporary security challenges and threats;

8. Propose that the special standing committees of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly should step up their work on the draft model law banning fascist ideology and any action aimed at rehabilitating Nazism or portraying Nazi criminals and their collaborators as heroes and should also finalize the draft model laws on military celebration days and memorial dates, on military support activities, on immortalizing the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and on immortalizing the memory of those who died defending the Fatherland;

9. Commend the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation for the establishment, in new historical conditions, of a single European space with a guarantee of equal and indivisible security for all States;

Support efforts by all countries of the world to strengthen a global coalition against terrorism and drugs and the early adoption of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism;

10. Urge the world community to view the commemoration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War and the Second World War as a historic opportunity for further strengthening the atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation in international relations.